

1-1 Cav 'Bandits' shed light on their subjects

Story and photos by Sgt. M. Trent Lowry, USMC, 1 AD PAO

YUSUFIYAH, Iraq – Mortarmen from 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Task Force 1st Armored Division, lit the up the night skies with luminescent mortars as they hunted terrorists in an area suspected of harboring anti-Coalition insurgents.

Belching flames, the 120mm mortars leapt from the launcher of "Bandit" Troop's M1064 heavy mortar carrier with a thunderous report.

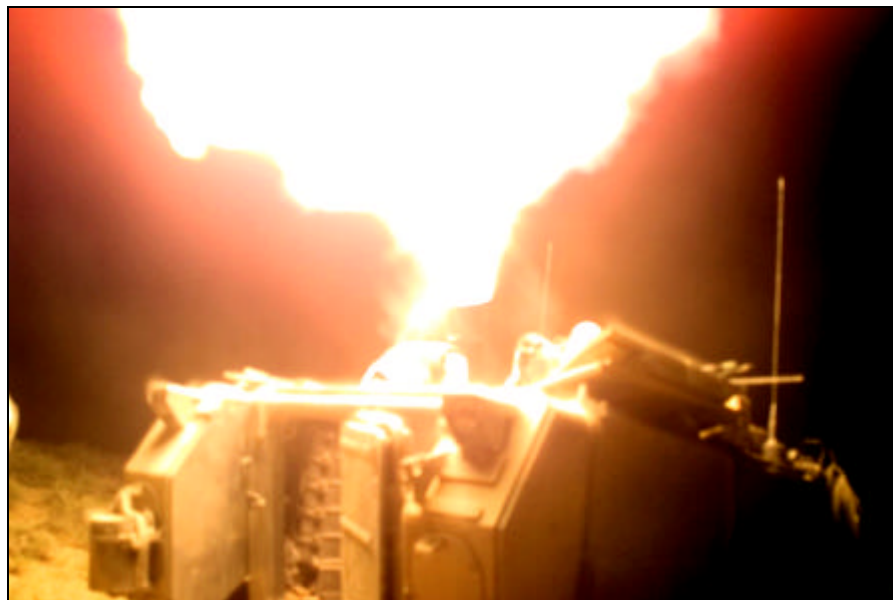
"The two target areas were launch sites for mortar attacks against us," said Sgt. 1st Class Pierre Thibodeaux, Bandit Troop mortar section sergeant. "The idea is that the luminous rounds bursting might scare the enemy into not setting an IED (improvised explosive device) or firing mortars."

Indeed, the purpose behind the mortar fire that night – in an area where IEDs had previously been found – bore true when a roadside bomb detonated just in front of one of the troop's vehicles. No one was injured and the vehicle only sustained light damage. The blast put substance behind the night's activities.

After sending more than a dozen luminous rounds into the air, the scouts and mortarmen of Bandit Troop went into the small, rural community of Yusufiyah to search area homes looking for signs of anti-Coalition activity.

The mortar fire and street search was the culmination of the lessons learned by a Bandit Troop during the Soldiers' yearlong mission in Iraq.

"Just recently we got to do our mission – firing mortars – and it's definitely helped with our morale,"



The mortarmen of "Bandit" Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, illuminate the sky as their 120 mm mortars send illumination rounds up to root out possible insurgent activity in the Yusufiyah area south of Baghdad.

said Spc. Jonathan Bentley, a mortarman with "Bandit" Troop.

"Our first MOS (military occupational specialty) is infantryman, and then mortars is a secondary MOS for us, so we're getting to do what we were trained to do."

During the first year the unit spent in Baghdad, Soldiers provided security for the city and searched for anti-Coalition insurgents. That meant learning the streets of the city and patrolling those streets, but no opportunity for firing mortars.

Since the task force's extension in Iraq, though, the Bandit Troop mortars have not been silent.

"It's what we've wanted to do the whole time out here," said Pfc. Philip Lala, an assistant mortarman with Bandit Troop. "We did this mission tonight just to let (the enemy) know we're not afraid to fire back."

In the time spent preparing for

the mission, the Soldiers' conversations would often stray to other subjects, like how they might spend their leave when they redeploy, and their families back home. But, they, too, have become a family, and a strong bond has grown between all of the Bandit Troop Soldiers.

"We've definitely gotten tight, (we're) a real tight family here," Lala said. "When it comes down to it, we trust each other with our lives, and that's what makes me confident about doing missions like this."

While the mortar and search mission that night didn't turn up any evidence, the mission was still executed without a hitch.

"It was another successful mission, another successful patrol," said Thibodeaux. "We're at the top of our game."

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Quote of the Day...

"Our greatest glory was not in never falling, but in rising when we fell."

-- Vince Lombardi (1913-70), American football coach

Oddly Enough...

People You Should Avoid Shooting At...

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) - A Mexican boxing champion beat up and hospitalized a gunman who shot at him outside a gym in a crime-plagued city on the U.S. border.

Prosecutors in Ciudad Juarez said a man armed with two pistols shot at light-heavyweight champion Arturo "The Graduate" Rivera as he left the gym early Monday.

Rivera, a stocky brawler with 16 knockouts from a 26-fight career and ranked 98th in the world, fought back with his fists and the attacker was treated in hospital for head injuries.

"The Graduate was unharmed in the attack, which we are treating as attempted murder, although we can find no motive," Mauro Conde, a spokesman for local prosecutor said.

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

96 Vespasian, a Roman army leader, is hailed as a Roman emperor by the Egyptian legions.

1543 England and Scotland sign the Peace of Greenwich.

1690 Led by Marshall Luxembourg, the French defeat the forces of the Grand Alliance at Fleurus in the Netherlands.

1798 Napoleon Bonaparte takes Alexandria, Egypt.

1838 Charles Darwin presents a paper on his theory of evolution to the Linnean Society in London.

1862 Union artillery stops a Confederate attack at Malvern Hill, Virginia.

1863 In the first day's fighting at Gettysburg, Federal forces retreat through the town and dig in at Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill.

1898 American troops take San Juan Hill and El Caney, Cuba, from the Spaniards.

1942 German troops capture Sevastapol, Crimea, in the Soviet Union.

1950 American ground troops arrive in South Korea to halt the advancing North Korean army.

1961 British troops land in Kuwait to aid against Iraqi threats.

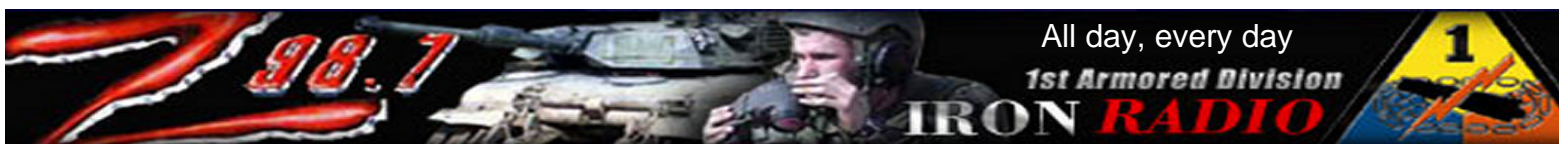
1963 The U.S. postmaster introduces the zip code.

1966 The U.S. Marines launch Operation Holt in an attempt to finish off a Vietcong battalion in Thua Thien Province in Vietnam.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Cooperating With The Inevitable

How do you feel when the alarm clock rings to wake you in the morning? Grumpy and obnoxious? To judge by many television shows or commercials, most people seem to start the day like a bad-tempered bear coming out of hibernation. However, a bad start can spoil the whole day. So, why not try something different? You set the tone. Nobody makes you feel bad. That is a decision you make. If the day is decided by you to be bad then it will. Naturally, the reverse is true. To awaken and take control of the day through your attitude is a decision only you can make. The story goes of an old man who always seemed cheerful despite his difficulties in life. "How do you keep so cheerful and calm?" he was asked. "Well, I'll tell you," he said. "I've just learned to cooperate with the inevitable." There are some things in life that are inevitable. I cannot stop my aging process, but I can determine how my aging affects my attitude. I can waste my time and energy in fighting the inevitable, or I can focus my efforts in making a difference in those areas that I control and have influence. Cooperating with the inevitable is not rolling over and giving up, it is accepting certain truths in life and trusting that God has all things under control. I cannot help the fact that I will wake up one day older tomorrow, but I can determine whether I start the day with a frown or a smile.





Get the 411!

NEWEST PX CLOSING DATES!!!

The following AAFES facilities located on BIAP will close and remain closed for business as of the dates listed below.

**BIAP(W) PX (Dogwood)
1 JULY 2004.**

**BIAP(E) AAFES PX and Burger King
5 JULY 2004.**

**CHANGE: The BIAP(W) ADACG PX will close
10 JULY 2004**

OLD IRONSIDES

**Reenlistment Bonus Incentives Draw to a Close, Be Sure to
Get All That's Coming to You!**

1. DEPLOYED REUP BONUS ENDS WHEN SOLDIER DEPARTS THEATER

Reenlistment bonuses designated for soldiers assigned or attached to units in Afghanistan, Kuwait, or Iraq are only eligible to receive that specific location bonuses if they reenlist while in one of those locations. Once the soldier departs theater, they are no longer eligible for that specific tax free lump sum bonus designated for those areas.

2. DEADLINE NEARS FOR RETROACTIVE REUP BONUS

Soldiers between the ranks of specialist and staff sergeant, with 17 months to 10 years active service, who reenlisted between 18 March 2003 through September 18 2003, while assigned or attached to units deployed in Iraq, Kuwait, or Afghanistan may be eligible for a lump sum bonuses up to \$5000. Soldiers have until 30 June 2004 to contact their career counselor to see if they are eligible and to request the lump sum payment.



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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, JULY 01, 2004			As of: Wednesday, June 30, 2004 11:57:40 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS
00:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			HEADLINE NEWS (NN)
00:30					NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)
01:00	MLB (NN) - BOSTON RED SOX @ NY YANKEES	1776	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - DRAGON ME ALONG	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT (NN)
01:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - CLUB SPONGE BOB/ MY PRETTY SEAHORSE		CBS EVENING NEWS (NN)
02:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA ON ICE	PLAY WITH ME SESAME	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN (NN)
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - THE HOWDY DOODY SHOW	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	
03:00			ONE TREE HILL (TVPG): - ALL THAT YOU CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND(AKA: WHERE I END AND YOU BEGIN)	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES (NN)
03:30		FAMILY BLESSINGS			
04:00	MLB (NN) - SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS @ LOS ANGELES DODGERS		THE WEST WING (TVPG): - HOLY NIGHT	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR (NN)
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	DOMINICK DUNNE'S POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND JUSTICE (TVPG): - MATERNAL INSTINCT	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	BET NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)
05:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT (NN)
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - IN SEARCH OF JASON & THE ARGONAUTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	LARRY KING LIVE (NN)
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):	
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)			
07:00	ESPNEWS (NN)	SESAME STREET	INSPECTOR MORSE (TVPG): - THE WOLVERCOTE TONGUE		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN (NN)
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):	
07:30	TOTALLY NASCAR (NN)				
08:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	PLAY WITH ME SESAME		AAAH! REAL MONSTERS (TVY): - THE SWITCHING HOUR	PAULA ZAHN NOW (NN)
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - BIG GINO/ JAMIE O. IN LOVE	
09:00	REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL (NN)	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - DRAGON ME ALONG	YU-GI-OH! (TVY): - DOUBLE TROUBLE DUEL (PT. 3)	NIGHTLINE (NN)
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - CLUB SPONGE BOB/ MY PRETTY SEAHORSE	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - INTO THE MOUTH OF EVIL	AIR FORCE TV NEWS (NN)
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):			
10:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT (NN) - TODAY AT WIMBLEDON - MEN'S QUARTERFINALS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA ON ICE	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS (NN)
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - THE HOWDY DOODY SHOW	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):			
11:00			ONE TREE HILL (TVPG): - ALL THAT YOU CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND(AKA: WHERE I END AND YOU BEGIN)	ESPNEWS	60 MINUTES (NN)
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):			
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	
12:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - HOLY NIGHT	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - LIARS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR (NN)
12:25				SCRUBS (TV14): - MY CATALYST	
12:30	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):			
12:55				REEL TIME	
13:00		TODAY (NN)	DOMINICK DUNNE'S POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND JUSTICE (TVPG): - MATERNAL INSTINCT		GOOD MORNING AMERICA (NN)
13:05				EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - JEFF AND TAMMY	
13:30	AMERICAN LEMANS SERIES (NN) - LEXINGTON, OH				
14:00			JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - IN SEARCH OF JASON & THE ARGONAUTS	E.R. (TVPG): - FORGIVE & FORGET	
15:00		AAAH! REAL MONSTERS (TVY): - THE SWITCHING HOUR	INSPECTOR MORSE (TVPG): - THE WOLVERCOTE TONGUE	PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)
15:30	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - BIG GINO/ JAMIE O. IN LOVE		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING (NN)
16:00		YU-GI-OH! (TVY): - DOUBLE TROUBLE DUEL (PT. 3)			THE EARLY SHOW (NN)
16:30	TOTALLY NASCAR (NN)	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - INTO THE MOUTH OF EVIL		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	
17:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - DRAGON ME ALONG		
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - CLUB SPONGE BOB/ MY PRETTY SEAHORSE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	
18:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT (NN) - WOMEN'S SEMIFINALS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA ON ICE	YANKEE DOODLE DANDY	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - THE HOWDY DOODY SHOW		
19:00		EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - LIARS	ONE TREE HILL (TVPG): - ALL THAT YOU CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND(AKA: WHERE I END AND YOU BEGIN)		60 MINUTES (NN)
19:25		SCRUBS (TV14): - MY CATALYST			
19:55		REEL TIME			
20:00			THE WEST WING (TVPG): - HOLY NIGHT		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)
20:05		EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - JEFF AND TAMMY			
20:15				BAD GIRLS	
21:00		E.R. (TVPG): - FORGIVE & FORGET	DOMINICK DUNNE'S POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND JUSTICE (TVPG): - MATERNAL INSTINCT		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)
21:30					INSIDE POLITICS (NN)
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - IN SEARCH OF JASON & THE ARGONAUTS	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	AIR FORCE TV NEWS (NN)
23:00	THE HOT LIST (NN)		INSPECTOR MORSE (TVPG): - THE WOLVERCOTE TONGUE	TODAY (NN)	LESTER HOLT LIVE (NN)
23:30	THE HOT LIST (NN)	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			